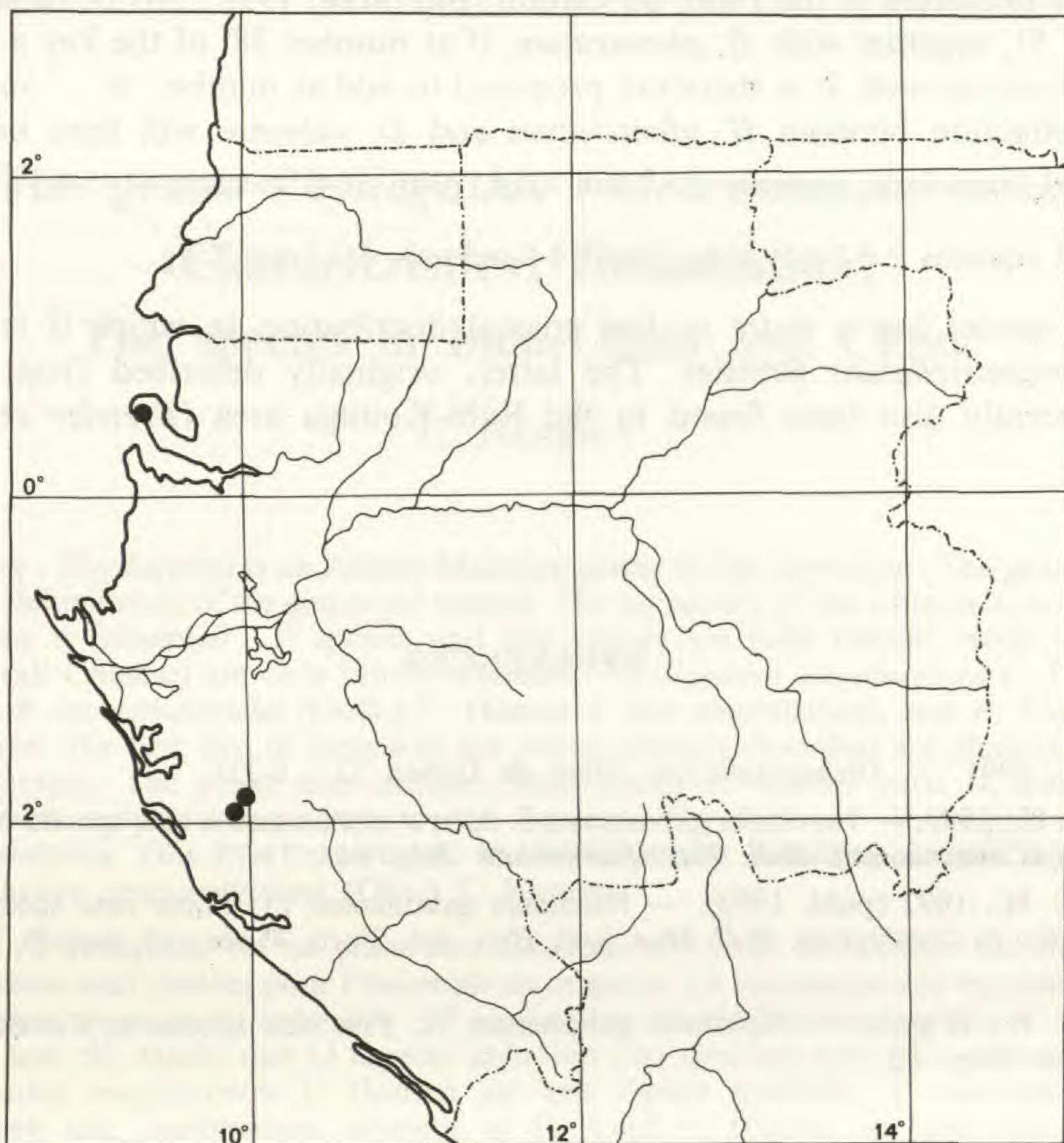


Fig. 1. — *Dichapetalum rabiense* Breteler : 1, flowering branchlet  $\times 1$ ; 2, large leaf  $\times 1$ ; 3, inflorescence  $\times 6$ ; 4, open flower, sepals and petals partly removed  $\times 6$ ; 5, petal and stamen  $\times 18$ ; 6, pistil  $\times 18$ . (Breteler et al. 10230 : 1, 3-6; Breteler & De Wilde 384 : 2).



Map 1. — Distribution of *Dichapetalum rabiense* Breteler.

obovate in outline, 2.5-3 mm long, 0.5 mm split, glabrous or with a very few hairs below split outside, lobes concave. Stamens slightly curved inwards, as long as petals or nearly so, glabrous. Staminodes subquadrate in outline,  $0.5 \times 0.5$  mm, glabrous, bilobed. Pistil 4-5-merous, 3-3.5 mm long; ovary 4-5-locular, suberect-hairy; style glabrous with 4-5 stigmas. Fruit unknown.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. — GABON : Mondah forest near Libreville (ster. Sept.), *Breteler & De Wilde* 384 (LBV, MO, P, WAG); Rabi-Kounga (fl. Oct.), *Breteler et al.* 10230 (LBV, MO, WAG), type; (ster. Nov.), 10320 (BR, LBV, WAG); between Rabi-Kounga and Yeno (ster. May), *Breteler et al.* 11470 (LBV, P, WAG).

*Dichapetalum rabiense* is a remarkable species because of its 4-5-merous pistils, a phenomenon which, so far, had not been observed in any other species of this genus. The new taxon brings the number of *Dichapetalum* species found in Gabon to 53 of which 8 are endemic.

With the key presented in the Flore du Gabon (BRETELER, 1991 : 30) *D. rabiense* would key out at number 51, together with *D. glomeratum*, if at number 38' of the key a 4-5-lobed style was possible choice as well. It is therefore proposed to add at number 38' : 'ou avec style 4-5-lobé'. The distinction between *D. glomeratum* and *D. rabiense* will then be as follows :

- Petals (3-)4-6 mm long, stamens 3.5-7 mm long; pistil 3(-4) merous, (4-)5-8.5 mm long ..... *D. glomeratum*
- Petals and stamens 2.5-3 mm long; pistil 4-5-merous, 3-3.5 mm long ..... *D. rabiense*

The new species has a more or less coastal distribution in which it is paralleled by that of *D. geminostellatum* Breteler. The latter, originally described from the Libreville region, has recently also been found in the Rabi-Kounga area (Breteler et al. 10231).

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# The genus *Phyllagathis* (*Melastomataceae*) : Characteristics; Delimitation; The species in Indo-China and China

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**Summary :** *Phyllagathis* is an Asiatic-Malesian genus of the *Sonerileae*. The general morphology and the delimitation of the genus are treated. The taxonomy of the Chinese-Indo-Chinese part of the genus is presented : 27 species and one variety are fully treated, while eleven uncertain species (all Chinese) are only briefly discussed. *Phyllagathis megalocentra* C. Hansen is a new species, *P. marumiaetrica* (Guill.) C. Hansen a new combination, and *P. fengii* C. Hansen a new name. The first two of these and ten others recently described are illustrated by photos of the holotypes. The paper also includes illustrations of various parts of flowers and fruits, distribution maps, and a key to the species. The type of *Stapfiophyton* Li (*Sonerila peperomiaefolia* Oliv.) is transferred to *Fordiophyton*, resulting in the new combination *Fordiophyton peperomiifolium* (Oliv.) C. Hansen.

**Résumé :** *Phyllagathis* est un genre des *Sonerileae* d'Asie et de Malésie. La morphologie et la délimitation sont traitées pour l'ensemble de ce genre. La taxonomie des représentants chinois et indochinois du genre est présentée : 27 espèces ont été entièrement étudiées et sont identifiables grâce à une clé, tandis que 11 espèces chinoises peu connues sont plus succinctement traitées. *Phyllagathis megalocentra* C. Hansen est une espèce nouvelle, *P. marumiaetrica* (Guill.) C. Hansen une combinaison nouvelle et *P. fengii* C. Hansen un nom nouveau. Les deux premières et dix autres espèces récemment décrites sont illustrées par des photos des holotypes. Des illustrations de détails de fleurs et de fruits, ainsi que l'aire de toutes les espèces sont présentées. Le type de *Stapfiophyton* Li (*Sonerila peperomiaefolia* Oliv.) est transféré à *Fordiophyton*, d'où la combinaison nouvelle *Fordiophyton peperomiifolium* (Oliv.) C. Hansen.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Asian genus *Phyllagathis* belongs to the *Sonerileae*. It occurs in three disjunct areas (Fig. 10, A) : Borneo (13 species); Sumatra, West Malaysia, and the southernmost part of peninsular Thailand (11 species); and northern Laos, Vietnam (Tonkin and Annam), and China generally south of lat. 30° N (35-40 species).

Each species is endemic to one of these areas. Few species have a wide distribution, e.g., *P. gymnantha* in the Bornean area, *P. rotundifolia* in the Malayan-Sumatran area, and *P. cavaleriei* in the Chinese-Indo-Chinese area, while most have a much more restricted occurrence, and many are very local endemics.